

Application Serial No. 10/629,208

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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A four-wheeled vehicle comprising:
 - a steering mechanism having a bar handle;
 - a front part having right and left front wheels;
 - a rear part having right and left rear wheels;
 - the front and rear wheels defining a straight line at a level extending in a longitudinal direction through uppermost points of the front and rear wheels;
 - a driver's seat disposed at said front part; and
 - a rear passenger seat disposed behind said driver's seat with a backrest for the driver therebetween, said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat cooperating with each other to provide a single seat, said backrest being positioned at an intermediate part of said single seat, said rear passenger seat facing forwardly, the rear passenger seat is entirely positioned forwardly of forwardmost points of the rear wheels, the rear passenger seat has bulged portions provided at opposite sides thereof for providing a larger width than the driver's seat, and the bulged portions allow the rear passenger seat to be occupied by two passengers sitting thereon side-by-side;
 - wherein the driver's seat is disposed at substantially the same level as the straight line, such that in side view, more of the driver's seat is located below the straight line than above it so long as some of the driver's seat is located above the straight line, and the rear passenger seat is disposed at a higher level than the driver's seat;
 - an engine disposed underneath below the rear passenger seat and below the straight line;
 - the vehicle having a width and an overall length, and the width is substantially half the overall length;
 - whereby said vehicle with driver and passenger maintains a low center of gravity.

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2. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said driver's seat includes a front part having driver's footrests provided at opposite sides thereof, said driver's seat being formed to allow a driver to sit astride thereon with his feet rested on said footrests.
3. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 2, wherein each of said footrests has a side edge projecting upwardly.
4. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 3, wherein said right front wheel and said right rear wheel provide a first straight line extending therethrough, said left front wheel and said left rear wheel provide a second straight line extending therethrough, and said side edges are positioned within a region defined between said first and second straight lines when viewed in top plan.
5. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising rear passenger's footrests disposed behind said driver's footrests.
6. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat are opened at opposite sides thereof.
7. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said driver's seat is formed to allow the driver to sit astride thereon.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 6, further comprising a front cover and a windshield disposed in front of said bar handle, and a body cover disposed behind and below said driver's seat.
11. (Withdrawn) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 10, further comprising a roof member continuous with said windshield and disposed above said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat.

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12. (Currently amended) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising a torque converter mechanism disposed underneath below the rear passenger seat.

13. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 12, further comprising a transmission mechanism for transmitting an output from said torque converter mechanism to said right and left rear wheels to drive said right and left rear wheels.

14. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising first side support members disposed at opposite sides of said driver's seat.

15. (Original) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising second side support members disposed at opposite sides of said rear passenger seat.

16. (Withdrawn) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 15, further comprising a storage portion, a roll bar and roof supporting posts provided behind said rear passenger seat, and at least one of said storage portion, and said roll bar and said roof supporting posts is united with said second side support members.

17. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 14, further comprising the backrest disposed behind said driver's seat and united with said first side support members.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the engine is part of a swing-type power unit part disposed below said rear passenger seat, said swing-type power unit is connected to the vehicle by a pivot shaft to allow vertical pivoting of the power unit, said front wheel and said rear wheel providing a straight line extending through the vicinities of uppermost points thereof, said power unit part being disposed below said straight line.

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20. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the engine is a forwardly directed engine.

21. (Currently amended) A four-wheeled vehicle comprising:

a front part having right and left front wheels;

a rear part having right and left rear wheels;

the front and rear wheels defining a straight line at a level extending in a longitudinal direction through uppermost points of the front and rear wheels;

a driver's seat disposed at the front part; and

a rear passenger seat disposed behind said driver's seat with a backrest for the driver therebetween, said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat cooperating with each other to provide a single seat, said backrest being positioned at an intermediate part of said single seat, said rear passenger seat facing forwardly and the rear passenger seat is entirely positioned forwardly of forwardmost points of the rear wheels, the rear passenger seat has bulged portions provided at opposite sides thereof for providing a larger width than the driver's seat, and the bulged portions allow the rear passenger seat to be occupied by two passengers sitting thereon side-by-side;

the vehicle having a width and an overall length, and the width is substantially half the overall length;

wherein the driver's seat is disposed at substantially the same level as the straight line, such that in side view, more of the driver's seat is located below the straight line than above it so long as some of the driver's seat is located above the straight line, and the rear passenger seat is disposed at a higher level than the driver's seat;

whereby said vehicle with driver and passenger maintains a low center of gravity.

22. (Currently amended) A four-wheeled vehicle comprising:

a front part having right and left front wheels;

a rear part having right and left rear wheels;

the front and rear wheels defining a straight line at a level extending in a longitudinal direction through uppermost points of the front and rear wheels;

a driver's seat disposed at the front part;

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a rear passenger seat disposed behind said driver's seat with a backrest for the driver therebetween, said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat cooperating with each other to provide a single seat, said backrest being positioned at an intermediate part of said single seat, said rear passenger seat facing forwardly, and the rear passenger seat is entirely positioned forwardly of forwardmost points of the rear wheels, the rear passenger seat has bulged portions provided at opposite sides thereof for providing a larger width than the driver's seat, and the bulged portions allow the rear passenger seat to be occupied by two passengers sitting thereon side-by-side;

wherein the driver's seat is disposed at substantially the same level as the straight line, such that in side view, more of the driver's seat is located below the straight line than above it so long as some of the driver's seat is located above the straight line, and the rear passenger seat is disposed at a higher level than the driver's seat;

the vehicle having a width and an overall length, and the width is substantially half the overall length;

a front roll bar disposed in front of said driver's seat and in upright position;

a rear roll bar disposed behind said rear passenger seat and in upright position; and

said front roll bar and said rear roll bar providing a straight line extending through the vicinities of top ends thereof, said straight line having a space defined therebelow to allow a driver and a rear passenger to sit on said driver's seat and said rear passenger seat, respectively, within said space.

23. (Previously presented) A four-wheeled vehicle according to claim 22, such that said backrest is positioned at the same level as the waist of said driver sitting on said driver's seat.

24. (Currently Amended) A four-wheeled vehicle comprising:

a front part having right and left front wheels;

a rear part having right and left rear wheels;

the front and rear wheels defining a straight line at a level extending in a longitudinal direction through uppermost points of the front and rear wheels;

a driver's seat disposed at the front part; and

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a rear passenger seat disposed behind said driver's seat with a backrest for the driver therebetween, said rear passenger seat facing forwardly, and the rear passenger seat is entirely positioned forwardly of forwardmost points of the rear wheels, the rear passenger seat has bulged portions provided at opposite sides thereof for providing a larger width than the driver's seat, and the bulged portions allow the rear passenger seat to be occupied by two passengers sitting thereon side-by-side;

an engine disposed underneath below the rear passenger seat and below the straight line;

the vehicle having a width and an overall length, and the width is substantially half the overall length;

wherein the driver's seat is disposed at substantially the same level as the straight line such that in side view, more of the driver's seat is located below the straight line than above the straight line so long as some of the driver's seat is located above the straight line, and the rear passenger seat is disposed at a higher level than the driver's seat.